

**November/
December 2005**

Eastern Express

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System

From the Administrator

Governor Heineman signed a proclamation at Jim Trelease's presentation at the Seward Memorial Library, on October 19, making November Read Aloud Month. Read Aloud Nebraska representatives as well as eight second and third graders were among the more than 200 people attending.

While I was familiar with Trelease's books, *The Read-Aloud Handbook* and *The New Read-Aloud Handbook*, this was the first time I had heard his message. I came away thinking every parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, care-giver, teacher, and government official should listen to this to what he has to say about the importance of reading and especially reading aloud to children.



November Read Aloud Month

- Kids will read about their reading level when they are passionate about a subject.
- We must make reading a pleasure for kids.
- The 1985 "Becoming a Nation of Readers Report" found that the single most important activity to building the knowledge required for eventual success is reading.
- Children need to see adults read in order to model their attitude towards reading.
- Children need to be talked and read to from birth in order to build up a database of words.
- Reading aloud to children is a practice that should continue throughout the grades.
- Kids need to be exposed to books. Display them showing covers.
- Children spend approximately 900 hours a year in school and 7800 hours outside of school that is time for others to read aloud to them.
- Students who do the best in school read or are read to the most outside school. Those who are read to an average of only 37 minutes a day rank in the 90th percentile.
- Need to offer more free reading time in the classroom.
- Children need to hear a new word 12 times before it is embedded in their mind.
- Read to kids at a higher level than their reading level as their listening level is higher.
- In Finland, watching TV with the closed captions has increased the children's reading skills.

For more information and resources about Reading Aloud visit www.trelease-on-reading.com.

To interlibrary loan a bibliography of titles recommend by Trelease for reading aloud, please call the system office (402-330-7884 or 800-627-7884).

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day, the American, un-commercialized, autumn holiday that gives most people a four-day weekend and a reason to be together with family and friends to eat, watch football, and gear up for the holiday shopping frenzy.



**The cornucopia
originated in ancient
Greece.**

We aren't really sure if they had turkey that first "Thanksgiving Feast," but they did have venison. The term "turkey" was used by the Pilgrims to mean any sort of wild fowl. They probably didn't have pumpkin pie either since their supply of flour had run out, but they did eat boiled pumpkin. It is fairly certain that they dined on fish, including lobster; and they ate berries, although probably not cranberries.

It was George Washington who proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, though many of the colonies opposed it. Even President Thomas Jefferson thought it was a bad idea. A magazine editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, wrote editorials on the importance of "thanksgiving" to governors and presidents for 40 years. Finally, in 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a National Day of Thanksgiving. Then in 1941, the Congress designated the fourth Thursday as a legal holiday - also known as Thanksgiving Day.

**A little bit of trivia along with our wish for a
Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.**



Kathy & Nancy

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Trustee Page

Serious Board Business: How to Be a Destructive Board Member

[Policy Making for Public Library
Trustees by James C. Baughmann]



The chair began by saying, “Before proceeding with our board self-evaluation as recommended by ALTA, (American Library Trustee Association) I would like to share a somewhat burlesque item with you which I recently received from a colleague.” He began to read, and the further he went, the more people smiles, and soon there was considerable chuckling around the board table. He read:

Sixteen Ways to Be a Rotten Board Member

1. Gossip about what happened in the boardroom, especially in executive sessions, with your friends and other social acquaintances.
2. Leak sensitive information to the press.
3. Skip, or rarely be on time to board and committee meetings. In addition, never read board material, including minutes, before meetings.
4. Feel free to ask the director to hire your relatives, friends, and political cronies.
5. Interfere with staff activity, procedure, and program of service on a daily basis.
6. Withhold strategic information until the right moment—when it serves your personal or friends’ special interests.
7. Use your public office for your own personal advantage and the advantage of your friends and supporters.
8. Snuggle up to the local power brokers to advance your personal agenda without the knowledge of the board, and be sure to find out how the power brokers want you to vote on critical issues.
9. Shoot down energetically all new ideas before exploring them or their alternatives.
10. Hold grudges.
11. Be impolite to fellow board members.
12. Team up faithfully with one or two other members on the board to build a power block to oppose other members.
13. Do not volunteer for committees—they take too much time.
14. Break the chain of command so you can create role confusion and build your own power base.
15. Show little interest in what the board does.
16. Abstain on all crucial votes and then claim no responsibility for decisions—this will look good to your constituents.

After reading the item, the chair then said that he would like to suggest the next item for the list. “Do not ever fill out a self-evaluation form.” (There was uproarious laughter and some fun poking.)

He finally said, “I know that we are a pretty good board, but the important question is, How can we improve? Let’s talk about this.” The board began discussion on its self evaluation.

The above checklist is fun and certainly not meant to slam any particular board. It is good to laugh about how terrible something might be, but if each way is examined closely, a board of directors might find that some of the ways to be a rotten board member do happen.

Trustees have a very important function and are the ones who are responsible and accountable for their library. As Baughman says, the question is “,,how can the board improve?” Self-evaluations are one way to help point out what can be improved.

*The next issue of **Eastern Express**, will address self-evaluations. If your library board is already doing a self-evaluation, the system office would like to have a copy of the form. **KT***

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead

System News



Author Visit

[Evonne Edgington, Omaha Public Library]

The Young Adult author, Vivian Vande Velde, came to Omaha on October 10 and left on October 15. During that week she went to several schools and public libraries. She talked to over 500 people during the week. She visited Lewis & Clark Middle School, Elkhorn Middle School, Elkhorn Ridge Middle School, Broken Bow Public Library, Seward Public Library, Lincoln Public Libraries, Lefler Middle School, Dawes Middle School and Goodrich Middle School. She also had lunch with the director of the Thomas S. Power Library at Offutt Air Force Base and got a tour of the base and the library.

During her visits she would talk about the writing process, to include how long it took her to write her first book, how long it took to get a publisher to accept the book, and how long it took to get it published, six years total. She talks about the editing process and how she gets ideas for her books. She also talks about her book covers and how as an author she gets no say in the cover of her book. She rarely gets to see the cover ahead of time. She will answer questions from the audience about anything including money and her age. She will sign books and talk to the audience at the end. She is a very accommodating author and very easy to work with.

Springfield Public Library

[Connie Manzer, director]

"Our library received the *We the People Freedom* book shelf from the National Endowment for the Humanities & ALA. We have recently placed the book shelf on display and will soon begin our programming highlighting the books. We are honored to have won this grant."

Excalibur Award Winner

Wendy Anderson, director of the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public Library, is this year's winner of the Excalibur Award given by the Public Library Section of the Nebraska Library Association to an outstanding public librarian. Wendy is a leader in her

field and offers excellent customer service to her community. She has been especially effective in implementing state-of-art technology for her patrons. Wendy was *on a roll* at this year's convention. She also won a chair raffled off for a scholarship fund.



Wendy and Julie Simpson, Lincoln City Libraries

Omaha Public Schools

The 51st annual Library Media Center Materials Exhibit was held in the library media center at Bufett Magnet Center November 14-18. On display were more than 500 books selected by the elementary review committee during the past school year. Students from throughout the district visited the exhibit and had the opportunity to recommend titles they believed would be useful additions to their school library media center. Children's author, Mary Casanova spoke to the student visitors throughout the week.

Meritorious Services Award Winner

John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, is this year's deserving choice by the Nebraska Library Association Citations Committee. This award is given annually to a person who has contributed to the improvement of library services in a local community, county or state, or in library legislation. John certainly has been instrumental with technology, both in training and implementation. John is also very active in advocating libraries and their issues in the State Legislature.



More News

Another Award

Joy Winkler, librarian at the Alegent Immanuel Medical Center Library, was presented with the Special and Institutional Promotion Award at the NLA/NEMA Conference in September. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in marketing/promotion of services in Nebraska's special and institutional libraries. Joy has many creative gifts and energetic drive and well-deserves this award.

Still Another Award

The New Members Round Table Section presents the Mentor of the Year Award to an individual who has aided significantly in the professional development of librarians, media specialists or library staff, and, by example, has influenced their careers. This year's winner is Dr. Becky Pasco, UNO faculty and ELS Board member. Becky certainly provides strong leadership and sets a wonderful example of professional involvement and encouragement to everyone she comes in contact with—both students and colleagues.

AND.....yet another ELS member is a winner!

Denise Lawver, children's librarian at the Wahoo Public Library, won the Margarita basket raffled off by the Paraprofessional Section.



Who are these crazy ladies?

Could they be librarians?

Brenda Ealey & Kathy Tooker dancing the night away at convention!

Arlington

This summer volunteers at the Arlington Public Library were named as this year's "Marian Wilkins Community Service Award." The award is given by the Arlington Education Foundation. At the annual banquet "Friends of the Library," volunteers, trustees, librarians (past and present) and the current library board were all recognized.

Keene Memorial Library, Fremont


The first anniversary of "Paws for Books" reading program has now passed. A successful program with over 150 children participating in the initial year. Children read to a trained dog. The dogs as well as their handlers go through a certification program and volunteer at other locations such as the University of Nebraska Medical Center's pediatric unit as well as coming to the library every Wednesday. The children reserve a spot up to a month in advance and they always have kids on a waiting list. After reading six times, the child selects a free book and the dog will autograph it with a paw print. Confidence and reading ability have improved for many of the children. For more information on this program contact children's librarian, Joan Chesley chesley@keene.lib.ne.us


Valley


The Valley Public Library has moved its entire building to the site of their former location. The collection was packed up in 800 boxes by 30 volunteers. An open house will be held in January.

Bellevue

The Bellevue Public Library has Book Club Kits available to book clubs. There are ten copies per title and include discussion materials. Some titles include:

 *The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood

 *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant

 *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger

 *Outside Valentine* by Liza Ward

 *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult

For more information contact Julia Dinville, Adult Services Librarian, at 402-293-3157 or jdinville@bellevue.net.

More Public Library News

Keene Memorial Library, Fremont, is making a real commitment to getting the news out about their library's collection by increasing the subscription number of *Book Page* from 50 to 1000. The library will purchase everything reviewed in the publication.

Bellevue Public Library's budget increased by 10% allowing for the addition of two part-time staff in the areas of young adult and reference services.

Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, circulation was up over 20,000 last year to over 200,000. The library is now a Wi Fi library.

Lyons Public Library's new 5,000+ sq. ft. building now under construction, will feature a teen area and a coffee bar. The library is offering sessions for seniors on the new Medicare card.

Agnes Robinson Waterloo Public Library is also has a new 5,000 sq. ft. building under construction that should be completed next spring.

The Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public Library has upgraded their computers and remain very busy.

Snyder Public Library is looking forward to remodeling its building to better serve their customers.

Gretna Public Library's building committee is going to visit new libraries in the state to help them plan what they want in a new building.

According to the Nebraska Library Commission's Accreditation Program for Public Libraries 97% of the public libraries in the Eastern Library System meet the guidelines to be accredited.

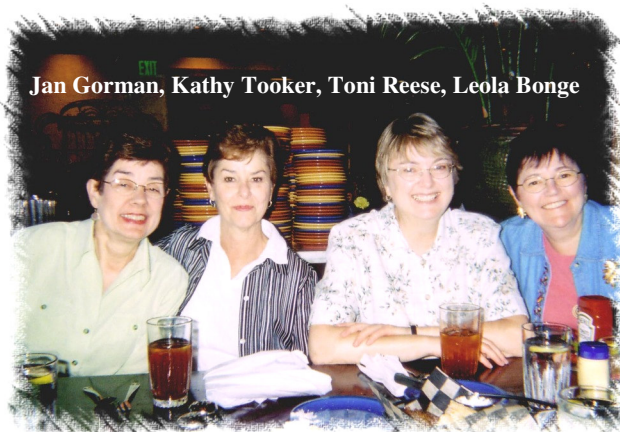
We ought to be increasing library hours and services. This is no time to be locking up the books. What in the name of Ben Franklin is going on here?" - William Ecenbarger, from "Libraries Are and Essential Services, Too." *Christian Science Monitor*, March 11, 2005

In case you thought librarians don't have fun, these pictures prove you wrong. Gayle Roberts and Karen Hein recently attended a concert where, apparently, wearing lamp shades was part of the entertainment.



Gayle & Karen, University of Nebraska at Omaha Library

Taking time to have lunch with friends and colleagues



Jan Gorman, Kathy Tooker, Toni Reese, Leola Bonge



Leola, Linda Oyster, Toni, Jan, Nancy Meyer, Wendy Anderson



For Children's Librarians & Media Specialists

Harold is 50! And he still doesn't look any older than the toddler who drew with large purple crayon. *Harold and the Purple Crayon* as well as the other six titles by author, Crockett Johnson, continue to delight youngsters. The books, created between 1955 and 1963, all remain in print and have sold over two million copies. Check out www.k-state.edu/english/nelp/purple/index.html, a Web site about Johnson and his work by Philip Nels, a children's literature scholar who discovered Johnson's drawings for a book that was never published. *Magic Beach* is now available from Front Street Books.



Good Ideas

[seen in *Library Media Connection*]

Sheryl Fullner from Nooksack Valley Middle School in Everson, WA passes on this idea. Many companies that sell recorded books have sample readings available at the click of a mouse. She turns up volume on her computer to fill the library media center space and then picks a popular new book. The sample chapter rolls out in the voice of the professional reader. Students are mesmerized. This serves as a free book talk even while she is busy with circulation.



This **AV Cookbook** idea is from Laura Jeanette Brown, Paint Brush High School, Burtonsville, MD. Teachers and staff sometimes have a hard time running audiovisual equipment that they don't use often. To solve this problem, create an Audiovisual Electronic Cookbook for your school. Use a digital camera to take pictures of all the steps of how to use the equipment, insert them into a PowerPoint slide show, and add

the text. Once the slide show is completed, link it to your school's Web site or your library media center page so teachers and staff always have access to it.

BroDart has a free copy of a 12-page "**Kid Safe Graphic Novels**" newsletter. The titles are chosen to appeal to young readers and have been reviewed by their collection development department and librarians across the U.S. Call 800-474-9816 to sign up for the newsletter. To view go to www.graphicnovels.brodart.com.

Keeping up-to-date on children's list can be a formidable task. A new creation from *Publisher's Weekly* is **Children's Bookshelf**, a free weekly e-newsletter with author interviews, industry news, and articles about prominent children's book titles. Also included are features, awards, best-seller lists, and links to related articles about children's books. To register log on to: www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6253324.html.

Summer Reading Program is over for this year but it is never too early to start planning for coming years.

Themes:

2006—Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales

Teen theme—Creature Features

2007—Get a clue @ your Library

Teen theme—YNK—You Never Know

2008—Specific theme not yet selected but think BUGS

Críticas, the Spanish language publisher, has launched a new free twice-monthly newsletter, *Críticas Connection*, and Web site at www.criticasmagazine.com.

A child needs to read a word they are not familiar with 12 times to embed it in their head.
—Jim Trelease

Digitization Project for the *Nebraska Public Documents*

James T. Shaw, Government Documents
Librarian, UNO Library

Several libraries in Nebraska own volumes of a collection called *Nebraska Public Documents*. Spanning the years between 1875 and 1956, it contains annual reports of Nebraska state agencies, neatly collated and bound. Last January representatives from the Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska State Historical Society, the University of Nebraska--Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha met to begin planning a project to digitize the collection and make it freely available via the Internet.

The project met with startling success before it had hardly begun. The New York Public Library, while working on a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in the mid-1990s, microfilmed its copy of the Nebraska Public Documents. We discovered that we could purchase a copy of the microfilm to use for scanning, which greatly reduces labor and costs. The microfilm will ultimately reside with the NSHS, providing the state with a much needed, high-quality archival copy of the collection. The paper in many of the volumes is very fragile, so the digitization project addresses issues pertinent to both access and preservation.

The Nebraska Library Commission provided \$23,000 in funding, which covered the purchase of the microfilm and provided initial momentum to the project. In September, the Nebraska State Records Board voted to make a matching grant, which took funding to \$46,000. We also extend our gratitude to the Digital Initiatives staff at UNL Libraries, who agreed to manage and host the electronic collection. This is a major in-kind contribution that effectively covers much if not most of the remaining costs. We may have to prospect for more funding, but we have already made incredible progress.

The actual digitization work will be outsourced to a firm capable of scanning high resolution im-

ages and distilling derivative files; for example, the derivatives will include optical character recognition (OCR) files which can be incorporated into keyword indexes. Recent advances in automated digitization should also make it possible to generate simultaneous metadata, thus reducing (but not eliminating) work which must be done manually.

Our initial inventory of the collection revealed that the volumes spanning 1875-1898 were not all created equal. We will likely need to pool our volumes and individually surviving reports to create a canonical collection for the early years. The reports on the microfilm must be inventoried as well, and we already know that we will need to fill some gaps there.

Once several reels have been scanned, we will be better able to project a timeline for the project. At this point, we hope to have a significant number of reports available online by summer or fall 2006, though we anticipate that filling gaps may extend the project for some time. In any event, Nebraska will soon be one of only a few states which have an extensive collection of archival documents available online.

While on the Subject of Burning Books

[Kurt Vonnegut, *A Man Without a Country* as seen in *The Unabashed Librarian*, issue #136]

While on the subject of burning books, I want to congratulate librarians, not famous for their physical strength, their powerful political connections or great wealth, who, all over the country, have staunchly resisted anti-democratic bullies who have tried to remove certain books from their shelves, and destroyed records rather than have to reveal to thought police the names of persons who have checked out those titles.

So the America I loved still exists, if not in the White House, The Supreme Court, the Senate, The House of Representatives, or the media. The America I loved still exists at the front desks of our public libraries.



Letters about Literature Writing Contest

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target presents **Letters about Literature**, a national reading and writing promotion program for children and young adults. Nebraska schools and libraries are invited to take part in this program, sponsored in cooperation with the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Lee Booksellers.

[Letters About Literature](#) is a writing contest and yet it is much more! The letters we receive are windows of understanding what young people think about, hope for and fear. They are friendly and conversational, sometimes funny and sometimes painfully honest. Submission deadline for *all* levels is **December 1, 2005**. All state and national winners will be notified by March, 2006. See www.nlc.state.ne.us/publications/lal for guidelines on specific submission details.

Contact the program director at: lettersaboutlit@epix.net. You may also call Mary Jo Ryan, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us.

The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. We are people who know and love books, and who value the richness they bring to our lives. Our Nebraska Center supports programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. We have been an affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book since 1990.

Scholarships Available

The Eastern Library System has designated money for scholarships to attend workshops and other training sessions. The Continuing Education Committee will review the applications.

For more information and to print off a scholarship form go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern/ScholarshipPolicy.htm>

Nebraska Golden Sower Award Nominee Titles 2006-2007

The titles have been posted on the Golden Sower webpage. Go to: www.nebraskalibraires.org/nugget/lists/bib0607.htm.

If you would like to nominate title for consideration for the 2007-2008 lists go to: www.nebraskalibraries.org/golden/sower/htm and click on "Nominate a Title" for directions.

If you would like to be a volunteer reader next year and help select the nominees, send an email to: Judy Andrews, (K-), andrews@omaha.lib.ne.us Kay Hershey (YA) khershey@mcneb.edu

Bus Trip to Jackson Hole/MPLA Conference

Thirty-two librarians and friends from 19 libraries in three states made the long bus trip to Jackson



Hole, WY for the Mountain Plains Library Association conference in October. The total distance for those leaving from Omaha was 1942 miles. In addition to reading, the group watched movies, played cards, snacked and took a few naps. The funding for the bus was provided by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Kathy Tooker was fortunate to be invited to have dinner with author Mark Spragg (*Where Rivers Change Direction*, *The Fruit of Stone*, and *An Unfinished Life*) and Karen Fisher (*The Sudden Country*).



More FYI

Language Arts Festival

Wayne State College will host its first annual Language Arts Festival on March 31 and April 1, 2006. It is designed to celebrate the achievements of Nebraska students in the English Language Arts. There are various categories to enter including:

- Writing Contest (short stories and poetry)
- Exhibits
- Library displays
- Performance (individual or group)
- Video (individual or group)

The guest author will be Jane Yolen. Other events will include concerts, a masquerade contest and a lunch banquet, among many workshops and other programs. Writing entries are due by February 17, 2006.

For more information contact:

Dr. Stan Gardner (stgardn1@wsc.edu)
Library Director
Wayne State College
1111 Main St.
Wayne, NE 68787



Christmas Time Is Here

On November 27, 2005 a benefit concert for the Neihardt Foundation will be held featuring the Wayne State College Madrigal Singers and the Bancroft Holiday Choir. For more information contact the Neihardt State Historic Site at 402-648-3388 or go to their web site (www.neihardtcenter.org)

The next CLICK meeting will be January 9, 2006 — place to be determined. If you would like to host the meeting please call the office. Bring a book to practice your book-talking skills.

Y.A. Book Club?

By Robin Schrack
Gretna High School

There are a number of things that go into creating a successful book club. Think about your young adult patrons. Many of them will tell you, "I don't like to read." For many of them, they would rather socialize with their friends. Book Clubs bring the social aspect into reading.

It is also a great way for schools to address issues in reading. Students who participate in book club will develop better comprehension skills, analyze text, as well as increase fluency. We tie our book club into our Accelerated Reader program. This provides students with the opportunity to earn additional points by participating in book club.

You might consider developing a partnership with your public library. This allows students to get to know their public librarian. You can then pool your fund to purchase books or interlibrary loan the copies.

Things to consider when you start a book club:

How will you promote it? Get input from Language Arts teachers. Do booktalks to advertise to students

What incentives will you use? Try offering food. Ask local business to donate or give discounts. This is a great way to get them hooked.

Where? When? How Often? It is good to meet halfway between the book and then again at the end. Try doing it during the lunch period, so you do not exclude anyone.

How do I choose which books? Try to find books dealing with issues teens face. This provides a great platform for discussion. Here are some titles I have had great success with:

Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn
Nothing to Lose by Alex Flinn
Swallowing Stones by Joyce McDonald
God of Beer by Garrett Keizer
Son of the Mob by Gordon Korman

I have seen our program grow from 6 students in my first book club one year ago, to 125 students in the one I just completed, which required having two separate dates meeting during 3 lunch periods!

Worth Checking Out

New additions to the professional collection that are available for loan to system members are:

Connecting Young Adults and Libraries by Patrick Jones, Michele Gorman, and Tricia Sullentrop, Neal-Schuman, 2004. Considered the “bible” of YA services, this book is filled with hundreds of “best practices.” Patrick Jones will be in Nebraska for two workshops—December 1, Seward Public Library, and December 2 at the Holiday Inn Express, North Platte. This is the book everyone will want to read after attending the workshop!

Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professional and Communities by Ruby K. Payne, Philip DeVol, and Terie Dreussi Smith, aha! Process, 2001. If you missed the preconference of the same name, this book will tell you what you missed or if you attended and want more explanation, call and ask to borrow this book.

2004 Nebraska Foundation Directory by the Junior League of Omaha. A list of Nebraska foundations alphabetically that includes contact and grant information.

Getting Grants in Your Community by Sally Gardner Reed and Beth Nawalinski, FOLUSA, 2005. A guidebook to help identify funding sources, write a persuasive case statement for your program, develop a budget, and write a winning grant.

Making Our Voices Heard: Citizens Speak Out for Libraries by Sally Gardner Reed and Beth Nawalinski, FOLUSA, 2004. A “how-to” guide for library promotion and advocacy.

Older Adults and Libraries: Collection Development & Programming was one of many programs presented at the recent MPLA conference in Jackson Hole, WY. Presenter by Ruth Hitchcock, the Older Adults and Young Adult Services Librarian at Albany County Public Library (WY), did an excellent job of sharing topics of interest to older adults, program ideas, resources, and statistics that could be helpful.

For a copy of the handouts, call the system office for a copy or go to www.usd.edu/mpla/documents/handouts/2005/index.html. Look under the date October 20, 2005.

The College of DuPage Teleconferences, sponsored by NLC, will be held at two sites in the system: Bellevue University’s Freeman-Lozier Library and Creighton University Health Sciences Library. Broadcasts run from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.. Videotapes are available for ILL from both institutions as well as NLC and the Regional Library Systems.

Soaring to Excellence

Libraries, the Universe and Everything

- November 18: “Google and Your Patrons”
- February 6: “Always a River, Sometimes a Library: Rick Anderson “Reexamines Library Practice and Patron Service”
- April 7: “Serving Immigrant Populations: A Library Prototype for Diversity”

Library Challenges & Opportunities

- March 10: “Library Management Hot Topics: A Roundtable Discussion with Experience Library Managers”
- April 28: “Google Print: Its Impact on Scholarship and Libraries”

For more information, visit www.nlc.state.ne.us.

Look under announcements for *College of DuPage*....

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Mid-Continental Region, has updated its list of resources available for the state. The links on the page contain state wide agencies that will be useful resources to library customers since the #1 one topic the public seeks information on is consumer health.

<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/states/nebraska.html>

Collection Development— More than one million kids have parents who divorce or separate each year. This statistic alone should make you consider how current and good are the resources in your collection. “The Binuclear Family Boom, *Library Journals*’ Collection Development article (September 1, 2005) by Douglas C. Lord, discusses what to look for, good publishers on the subject, as well as over 20 suggested titles. To interlibrary loan a copy of this article, call the system office.

Convention Highlights

[by Nancy Meyer]

Another NLA/NEMA Fall Conference is history and for those of you who attended I certainly hope that you found several sessions that made your time well-spent.

I was able to attend more sessions this year than ever before and enjoyed each and every one of them. I wanted to share some of the more practical information I learned.

One of the most interesting sessions (and fun) was on Friday morning entitled **“Using Drama to Boost Family Reading.”** The *Three Little Pigs* took on a whole new look as members of the audience acted out and adlibbed the familiar story. The presenter encouraged librarians to be innovative in storytelling and not be afraid to try offering the story in different venues, even if the story goes in another direction that the author intended. And he had two rules regarding drama in reading:

1. Don't bring a child up front to act out a story if they are reluctant, however, be sure to give them a second chance. Shy kids can be props.
2. Have fun. Stories don't always go as planned. The end can be the same even if the middle differs from the original story.

Connecting With Your Community was a wonderful session led by three librarians from Elkhorn, Seward, and Crete, who exemplify the enthusiasm and innovativeness needed to promote their library. Here are just a few of those great ideas:

- The library is a gathering place for the community—have a food ingathering going on at all times. And collect other things such as pop-tabs for Ronald McDonald House, used cell phones for domestic abuse shelters. Have a container for monetary donations to the most current disaster or cause prominently displayed..
- Present your annual report to the city council in a new manner - on a candy bar wrapper.
- Work with other businesses - book and a movie, book and dinner - advertise for them and they will for you.
- Have a staff out-reach program such as bringing fresh flowers from their gardens or gardens of others in the community and arrange them in small bouquets to take to local assisted living or nursing homes. Flowers straight from a garden brings back wonderful memories for the residents and gives the staff a purpose to work together.

Book Clubs at School

Several media specialists from the Millard Public Schools presented their individual programs.



☞ To make good use of the library books at the Andersen Middle School in the summer the library re-opens for summer checkout after everything is back in order after the school year. Students are allowed to take as many as 25 books, but all students are encouraged to check out even one or two. This is helpful to the public library whose book shelves are hit hard during summer reading program.

☞ Millard South promotes reading to their school staff during the summer. They advertise their newer books, do not limit the number of books checked out, encourage non-fiction reading as well, and average nearly 200 books checked out to staff (including kitchen, security and maintenance) each year.

☞ The Golden Sower Award Book Club at Rohwer Elementary meets once a month to discuss the books and also work on projects or report on projects based on the books they are reading. Jane Petersen, media specialist, posts an online quiz.

☞ The Millard Public Schools participates in the “One School—One Book” community-wide reading project. For more information on this go to www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook—Literary Events—One Book Projects. Their goal is to build a community of readers and promote family togetherness.

Eastern Library System Board Minutes

September 16, 2005

Sump Memorial Library, Papillion



Present: Becky Sims, John Seyfarth, Dorothy Willis, Matt Rohde, Mary Jo Mack, Lynn Bradman, Nina Little, Lupe Mier, Becky Pasco, Carrie Turner, Denise Lawver, Kathy Tooker, Nancy Meyer, Sally Payne, Gary Katz. Sally Payne, director of the Sump Memorial Library, welcomed the board.

Introductions/Comments: UNO is now circulating laptop computers. Bellevue PL's budget was approved as submitted. Lynn Bradman will present trustee survey at the NLA/NEMA conference. Becky Pasco reported increased enrollment at UNO resulting in additional classes. A remote site in the Panhandle is being considered. A brochure on library personnel recruitment and retention, produced by Pasco, was passed around. The new Wahoo PL has a tentative move-in date of next May. Becky Sims completed a review of the last five years at her library realizing great strides. John Seyfarth will be the recipient of the Meritorious Service Award at the NLA/NEMA conference.

Guest: Gary Katz, library administrator of the Kripke Jewish Federation Library. Gary spoke to the board on the collection and services of the library including upcoming events and speakers. Gary provided the board with a brochure on the library and answered questions.

The minutes of the July 15, 2005, meeting were approved.

The treasurer's reports for July and August 2005, were approved. They will be filed for audit.

Administrator's Report: See written report. Kathy reported on the success of the Leadership Institute and announced that the Nebraska Library Commission has agreed to fund the next Institute in 2007. There may be a Bill in the Legislature this next session dealing with library boards. Kathy toured the Peter's & Associates architectural firm and Dorothy suggested having them at the next ELS annual meeting. Kathy reported on grants received. Kathy is consulting with John Seyfarth for the new office computer. The regional library systems have purchased a wireless microphone. The ELS Annual Report was passed out with discussion on the stagnant funding. Kathy reviewed upcoming events.

Committee Reports:

Ad Hoc Needs Assessment – Nina Little presented a

template on a proposed survey. Lupe Mier suggested using the survey every year and submitting results to the Nebraska Library Commission. Becky Pasco suggested discussing the survey at the Annual Meeting. Nina, Kathy, Lupe and Lynn Bradman will continue to work on the project.

Continuing Education:

A tentative date for the End-of-Life workshop is November 14th at the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public Library. The Eastern and Southeast Library Systems will be co-operating on a continuing education event for seasoned professionals; a possible date for the colloquium is April 8th. An article was put in the newsletter asking for information on special collections in system libraries. The results will be put on the ELS web page.

New Business:

Members of the board reviewed the System Plan. Recommended changes in the three sections examined include: Networking and Cooperation – outcomes should be more quantifiable (measurable.) Advocacy and Promotion - wording should be more inclusive to include libraries of all types and library foundations; outcomes should be more quantifiable. Administration Office and Staff – delete second sentence in first paragraph “while this goal is last, system business....” Goal 1 – D – reword to “monitor the budget and system activities AND inform the system board.” Goal 1 – F – change to “OFFER transportation.”

Scholarship Policy – Kathy passed out a new policy and application form for scholarships. The policy was approved with minor wording changes. It will be posted on the ELS web page.

Dorothy Willis reported on a movement to develop an archival center for Omaha & Douglas County. A possible separate building and digitization of materials are being discussed.

Richard Miller, NLC, provided the board with a written report.

Denise Lawver moved and John Seyfarth seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Next Meeting is November 18, 2005 at the Blair Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Sims, Secretary



November 14–20—Children's Book Week. www.cbcbooks.org/cbw

November 18—ELS Board Meeting, Blair Public Library

"Google and Your Patrons Teleconference (see page 10)

State Advisory Council on Libraries, NLC, 9:30–2:30

November 30—Dewey Decimal Classification—Online Workshop;

www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/cataloging/html#reg

December 1 - Patrick Jones, *You are, but IM: Best Practices and New Direction to Serving Young Adults in Schools and Public Libraries*, Seward Memorial Library, 8:30–4

December 7 & 14— Dewey Decimal Classification—Online Workshops, Parts 2 & 3

January 6—DIRECT Meeting, Gretna Public Library, 9:30 -11:30

January 9—CLICK Meeting, location TBA

January 20—ELS Board Meeting, McGoogan Library of Medicine, UNMC

February 24—Summer Reading Program Workshop, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont

For more information on any of these events, call the System Office.

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